1:Srinivas E-5 (1940-42)1952 AW5 Coorg AW5

instance of the silent and effective transformation of an original Coorg custom into a similar, though not identical, Sanskritic custom.

A girl ought to get married and become a mother, and a mother is honoured among Coorgs. The bond between a mother and child is the most intimate of bonds and this fact expresses itself in ritual. While other relatives, including the infant's father, become free from birth-pollution on the twelfth day, the mother becomes free from pollution only on the sixtieth day. The stronger the bond prevalent the longer is the period of pollution, and this is so in birth as well as death.

When an infant whose milk teeth have not appeared dies, it is buried without ceremony, and a half of a coconut shell containing milk from the mother's breast is kept over the grave. Only the mother is required to take a bath and change into pure clothes.

The special importance of the maternal bond is recognized at marriage also: the mother is the first person to perform *mūrta* to the bride or groom, provided she is not a widow. The mother has to give her money-gift enclosed in a purse, and this is tied to the frontal breast-knot of the bride's *sari*.

It is not only in ritual that the strength of the mother–child bond is acknowledged: a number of proverbs testify to its strength. One compares the motherless child to a crop in drought. Another tells us that the father becomes a firebrand after the mother is dead. In proverbs the mother is the tender figure and she contrasts with the father who is comparatively lacking in affection and fickle. He can be trusted only as long as the mother is alive, and once the mother dies, his affection for his children decreases. He is likely to take up another wife who will be the focus of his interest and attention.

The dependence of children on their mother later gives way to great regard and respect for her, and this fact complicates the husband–wife relationship. A man does not like his wife's criticizing his mother, and even if he discovers that his mother does not treat his wife properly he would be loath to intervene.

The bond prevalent between a mother and her daughter is always a very deep one, and has a great poignancy because the daughter, on marriage, has to leave her natal home for her conjugal home. The mother is aware that her sons have all the rights, privileges, and power in the ancestral house, whereas her daughters have to leave their natal home and spend their lives among people who will, to say the least, be critical of her in the first few years.

4: Richter M, G-5 (ca. 1856-1870) 1870 AW5 Coorg AW5

211 figures are in grotesque attitudes, but remarkably well grouped
532 and closely resemble the sculptured reliefs of Halibeed.
172 In the top compartment there is occasionally a lamp and a Linga both on pedestals, and these insignia, together with the Basavas in the third frame, evidently denote the heroes as Linga worshippers and aliens from the present Coorgs, who know nothing about them; the Canarese Gaudas, in whose countries they are chiefly found, claim them as relics of their ancestors and annually present before these stones offerings of cakes and fruit. The dresses of all the figures represented are not in the Coorg but in the costume of Hindus of the scantiest clothing. Col. Wilks in his *History of Mysore* Vol. I. p. 15. explains the sculptured representations in the [195] three compartments thus: "The lowest describes the battle in which the hero was slain; the centre compartment represents him in the act of being conveyed to heaven between two celestial nymphs: in the uppermost he has arrived at the regions of bliss and is delineated as seated before the peculiar emblem of his religion—generally the lingum—for the practice of erecting monuments seems chiefly to belong to the sect of Siva."

211 In north and north-east Coorg similar stones, but with
178 simple and coarse sculptural figures are still erected by re-
● 766 lations of influential men who met with a violent death or were carried away by small-pox and cholera.

211 With the Coorgs it is the custom, to keep images of men
769 and women in Coorg costume chased in silver-plates in the *Keimatta*, which is a small square building near the house, in remembrance of their ancestors whose departed spirits are [326] there annually worshipped. These plates which are of little artistic merit are made by the country goldsmiths. Near the [175] *Kannana house*, on that fine hill slope opposite the Central [648] School in Mercara, there is a stone-slab with a picture in relief of a Coorg warrior. The stone is erected in the paddy

4: Richter M, G-5 (ca. 1856-1870) 1870 AW5 Coorg AW5

Whenever information is lodged of a person having
died a violent death, the functionaries shall proceed to the 671
spot where the dead body may have been found. They shall 177
examine the body and ascertain, whether there are any marks [625]
of violence upon it, or bruises, the number of them, and with [682]
what weapons the wounds or hurts may appear to have been
given. The above inquiries shall be made in the presence
of two or three creditable persons, and being committed to
writing the proceedings shall be sent to the Daryáft-Kacheri,
afterwards the functionaries shall endeavour to trace the per-
sons who may have murdered the deceased and apprehend
them.

49. The Subadárs of the taluqs on the frontier shall be [635]
particularly vigilant in apprehending robbers and vagabonds
who may come to this district from the neighbouring countries
to commit mischief.

50. The magisterial authority of the Subadárs does not [635]
extend to the pettas, where Kotwals are employed. The police [692]
of the pettas is entrusted to the charge of the Kotwals and
they will preserve the peace there. In cases where Kotwals [625]
may require the assistance of the Subadárs or the Revenue
officers who may be near the pettas, they shall be promptly
furnished with the aid demanded.

51. In cases where any person of whatever caste may
die a natural death without having relations or friends present,
the Sirkar servants shall cause the corpse to be buried or
burned according to circumstances at an expense of from one
to three canterai fanams. But if the deceased leaves property [768]
and no relations to claim it, a sufficient portion of the pro-
perty shall be appropriated for the performance of the funeral
ceremonies, and the remainder lodged in the Public Treasury
until claimed.

52. Any person who has laboured under the disease of [764] ●
leprosy shall not be buried in the earth. The corpse of such
person shall be burned, or if the caste of the deceased do not

4: Richter M, G-5 (ca. 1856-1870) 1870 AW5 Coorg AW5

671 admit of the corpse being burnt, it shall be caused to be thrown
177 into a river.
766

53. In case where a ryot, or a chetty or a merchant die,
671 leaving young children, whether boys or girls, the Subadár
177 or the Párapatiagára shall make over the property of the de-
429 ceased to his nearest relations, and after the children attain
768 their majority, the property shall be caused to be made over to them. But in defect of relations, the Gauda or the headman of the village shall be directed to take charge of the property and bring up the children. An inventary of the property shall be taken, one copy of which shall be kept by the Patél and the other entered in the Dufters. The expense attending the education, maintenance or marriage of the children, shall be deducted from the property."

648 Coorg being a non-regulation province, these simple rules
[671] sufficed for many years for the judicial administration of the country, wielded by the able officers, by whom Coorg had the good fortune successively to be ruled. On Col. Fraser leaving Coorg in October 1834 to be "Resident of Mysore," Capt. Le Hardy was appointed "*Superintendent of Coorg*," the first of a line of 15 Superintendents up to date and all, with the exception of two, military officers of the Madras Army. Col. Fraser transferred to Capt. Le Hardy "the civil charge and administration of the District" and when the former became Resident of Travancore and Cochin in 1836, and Col.—afterwards General Sir—Mark Cubbon C. B. succeeded him as Commissioner of the Government of the territories of His Highness the Rájah of Mysore and "*Commissioner of the affairs of Coorg*," the Superintendent's relative position remained unchanged down to the present day.

Sir Mark Cubbon, in whom India saw a noble type of the English gentleman, ruled Mysore and Coorg for a quarter of a century with great ability, vigour and judgment. Of his